

Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SAB-01 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

DODE-00 PRS-01 SAM-01 /048 W

----- 107931

O 101526Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3240

INFO USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

GOV PANCANAL IMMEDIATE

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S/S-O PASS TO AMBASSADOR KOREN, DOD/ODUSA, FROM MINISTER BELL

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJ: U.S.-PANAMA TREATY NEGOTIATIONS: WORKING GROUP ON CANAL
ADMINISTRATION

1. FOREIGN MINISTER TACK ADVISED MARCH 8 THAT PANAMA IS READY TO
PROCEED TO ESTABLISH THE WORKING GROUP. MARCH 24-28 HAS TENTAT-
IVELY BEEN SET AS PERIOD FOR THE GROUP'S FIRST MEETING IN
PANAMA CITY.

2. AMBASSADOR BUNKER HAS CONSIDERED ODUSA'S 062335Z AND USCINCSO'S
071758Z AND HAS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

(A) THE UNITED STATES TEAM FOR THIS PURPOSE MUST, IN CONTRAST
TO THE SOFA TEAM, BE EQUAL IN NUMBER TO PANAMA'S. THE NEGOTIATORS
WOULD WELCOME THE INCLUSION OF A USSOUTHCOM REPRESENTATIVE
PROVIDING THE PRINCIPLE OF NUMERICAL EQUALITY IS NOT VIOLATED.

(B) AS IN THE CASE OF THE SOFA AND LAND-USE TALKS, THE UNITED
STATES AND PANAMANIAN TEAMS WILL OPERATE UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF
AND AD REFERENDUM TO THEIR RESPECTIVE DEPUTY NEGOTIATORS.

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(C) FIRST SECRETARY BLACKEN WILL SPEAK FOR THE NEGOTIATORS
ON THE UNITED STATES TEAM.

(D) THE SUBJECT MATTERS LISTED BY ODUSA SEEM APPROPRIATE BUT
SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED PRECLUSIVE.

(E) THE AMBASSADOR WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT THIS GROUP
SHOULD OPERATE IN THE WHOLLY INFORMAL, UNSTRUCTURED MANNER THAT
CHARACTERIZED THE SOFA AND LAND-USE TALKS. ANY OTHER APPROACH
WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE UNITED STATES OVERALL NEGOTIATING
POSTURE. WHILE IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO HAVE FORMAL UNITED STATES
POSITIONS ON THE VARIOUS SUBJECTS WORKED OUT FULLY BEFORE THE
GROUP ADDRESSES THEM, THE UNITED STATES TEAM SHOULD BE PREPARED
TO ENGAGE IN A PROCESS OF EQUITABLE BARGAINING WITH PANAMA ON
EACH SUBJECT ADDRESSED.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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